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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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5 1. A betting system for use in the play of a game employing a game playing surface having a plurality of player positions, said system comprising:

an area provided at each player location for receiving betting chips;

10 said area having weighing means for determining the weight of chips placed thereon;

15 said betting chips employed in said system comprising a plurality of different denominations, each denomination having a weight which is different from every other denomination and being selected so that no combination of betting chips have a total weight which equals the weight of any one betting chip.

20 2. The betting system of claim 1, wherein the weights of the betting chips are further selected so that a first group of chips whose denominations total a given monetary value has a weight which is different from a second group of betting chips whose total monetary value is equal to said given value and wherein said second group comprises a greater number of betting chips than said first group.

30 3. The betting system of claim 1 wherein the monetary values of the betting chips in the system are one monetary unit, five monetary units, twenty-five monetary units and one-hundred monetary units.

35 *Sub 2* 4. The betting system of claim 3 wherein said chips of one, five, twenty-five and one-hundred monetary units have weights of 10.30; 11.30; 16.7; and 36.8 grams, respectively.

5. The betting system of claim 1 further including a second area for receiving a side bet, which is at least one of a side bet and a progressive bet and a receptacle for receiving a conventional bet comprised of chips stacked in a plurality of groups;

a second group of weighing means for each chip position for converting a chip weight into a monetary value; and

means for summing the monetary values to obtain a total monetary value of the conventional bet and at least one of the side bet and progressive bet.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said weighing means comprises a first means for converting a total weight of chips deposited thereon into an analog signal;

an A/D converter for converting the analog signal into a digital signal; and

means for converting the digital signal into a monetary value.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said converting means comprises table look-up means.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said table look-up means comprises a memory storing monetary values associated with each combination of chips.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein said first means comprises a load cell.

10. The system of claim 5 wherein said second group of weighing means further comprises means for sequentially converting the chip weight

at each chip position into a monetary value.

11. A method of incorporating one of a conventional bet, consecutive win side bet and a progressive bet into a game of chance utilizing betting chips of different denominations, a weight of each different chip denomination being different from a weight of every other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering at least one chip to participate in the game of chance;

b) said player making the wager of step (a) further wagering at least one chip on a consecutive wins or losses bet;

c) determining the weight of the chip wagered at step (b);

d) converting the weight determined at step (d) to a monetary value;

e) presenting a display of a payoff amount according to the number of consecutive wins selected in step (b) and the monetary amount of the wager made in step (a), and based on pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to different values of the prospective consecutive wins; and

f) providing a winning indication when the player making the side bet wager wins a consecutive number of games played which is equal to the number of consecutive wins originally selected.

12. A method of playing a game of chance utilizing betting chips of different denominations, a weight of each different chip denomination being different from a weight of every other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering a chip necessary to play the game;

b) determining the weight of the chip wagered at step (a);

c) converting the weight determined at step (b) to a monetary value;

5 d) storing the monetary value for subsequent analysis.

10 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising transferring the store values to a remote location through a communications link.

15 14. The method of claim 11 further comprising terminating the payoff display and removing the wagers made in steps (a) and (b) in the event that the player making such wager loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

20 15. The method of claim 11 wherein step (b) further comprises:

h) covering the consecutive wins bet made during step (b) within a receptacle during a consecutive win play period.

25 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:

30 i) uncovering the bet covered during step (h) when either a player has achieved a number of consecutive wins equal to the selected number or when a player loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

35 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising flashing said display generated during step (c) when a player having made the bet of step (a) has won a number of consecutive games equal to the selected wins number.

18. The method of claim 7 wherein step of flashing the display further includes making an audible alarm contemporaneously with flashing of said display.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

(h) determining the weight of the chip wagered in step (a);

(i) converting the weight of the chip determined in step (h) into a monetary value; and

(j) storing the value obtained at step (i) for subsequent analysis.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein step (d) further comprises generating an analog signal representing the weight determination and step (e) further comprises converting the analog signal into a digital format signal and determining monetary value using the digital signal.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein at least two chips are wagered at step (b) and further comprising:

(k) performing steps (h) and (i) for each chip in sequential fashion; and

(l) summing the monetary values obtained to determine the total monetary value.

22. The method of claim 11 wherein at least two chips are wagered at step (a) and further comprising:

(k) determining a total weight of the chips wagered during step (a); and

(l) determining the monetary value of the total weight obtained in step (k).

23. The method of claim 22 further

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comprising employing a look-up table to convert total weight into total monetary value.

5 ~~24.~~ The method of claim 22 wherein step (k) further comprises:

(m) converting a weight to into an analog signal and converting the analog signal into digital signal for use at step (l).

10 25. Betting apparatus, comprising:

a predetermined number of betting chips each representing different monetary values, the weight of each chip of a given monetary value being different from the weight of every other chip of different monetary value;

15 a chip receptacle;

means for detecting a presence and a weight of a chip placed in said chip receptacle;

20 means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight;

25 display means and means for operating said display means to select a given number of consecutive wins from a permissible range of numbers;

controller means responsive to said means for operating and a denomination of a chip in said chip receptacle for generating a payoff amount;

30 display means for displaying a number of consecutive games won and payoff amount; and

35 means responsive to initiation of a game of chance associated with the betting apparatus for preventing the number of consecutive wins, the amount of the bet and payoff from being changed until either a game is lost before the selected number of consecutive wins is attained or the

number of games won equals the number of consecutive wins selected.

5 26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a second device for receiving one or more chips representing a conventional bet;

 means for detecting a presence and a weight of a chip placed on said second chip device;

10 means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight; and

 means for accumulating said monetary bet values for subsequent analysis.

15 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein at least two chips are placed in said receptacle, said means for weighing includes means for sequentially determining the weight of each chip.

20 28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said monetary value determining means further includes means for summing the monetary values of said at least two chips.

25 29. In combination, chips representing monetary values and weighing apparatus for receiving one or more chips to determine their total monetary, comprising:

30 said chips each having a weight representing a given monetary value, a weight of chips of a given monetary value being different from a weight of chips of a different monetary value;

35 a device for receiving at least one chip;

 means for detecting a presence and a weight of at least one chip placed upon said detecting and weighing means;

means responsive to said weight detecting means for determining a monetary value associated with said weight; and

means for storing the monetary value for subsequent analysis.

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30. The combination of claim 29 wherein all of said chips, regardless of weight, are the same size

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31. The combination of claim 29 wherein the weights of the chips are selected so that the total number of chips being weighed at one time can be only one monetary value.

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32. The combination of claim 29 further comprising communication means for transferring values in said storing means to a remote location.

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33. The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising:

means for receiving an identifying member possessed by a player inserting an identifying member into said means for receiving, said identifying member containing player data identifying the holder thereof, said means for receiving including means for storing said player data; and

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means for associating betting information stored in said storing means with the player data of the player who developed said betting information.

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34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said identifying member has a magnetic surface for storing player data.

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35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said means for receiving includes means for reading player data stored in said magnetic surface.

5 36. The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising means at each player's location for receiving a progressive jackpot bet; and

communication means for coupling all
10 tables within a given region participating in said progressive jackpot bet to transfer betting information and consecutive win information relating to the progressive jackpot bet to a given location for monitoring and controlling the progressive jackpot bet.

15 37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said means for receiving a progressive jackpot bet comprises a progressive jackpot recess and sensing means for sensing a presence of a chip in said
20 progressive jackpot recess.

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38. A betting unit comprising:
a chip receptacle;
a transparent cover moveable between a
25 first position above said chip receptacle and second position displaced from said chip receptacle;

a housing for said chip receptacle
having an opening above said chip receptacle and a
30 surrounding marginal lip extending inwardly from said opening;

drive means;
first means responsive to operation of
said drive means for moving said cover between said
35 first and second positions;

second means responsive to operation of
said drive means for moving said elevator means
between said upper and said lower positions, said

first and second means being so interrelated as to lower said chip receptacle when said cover is being moved to said first position, raise said elevator when said cover reaches said first position, to press a marginal notch in said cover into engagement with the marginal lip of the housing and lower the elevator to provide clearance for said cover when being moved from said first position to said second position; and

said chip receptacle including a weighing sensor for determining a weight of a chip placed thereon.

39. A chip receptacle for use in a betting apparatus for providing a bet in a game of chance, comprising:

a housing having an opening;

a chip receptacle mounted in said housing and beneath said opening;

elevator means for raising and lowering said chip receptacle.

a carrier frame moveable between a first position between said chip receptacle and said opening and a second position displaced therefrom, the path of movement of said carrier being substantially perpendicular to the path of movement of said elevator means;

a transparent cover supported by and moveable with said carrier;

a drive source;

first means responsive to said drive source for moving said carrier between said first and second positions;

second means moveable by said drive source for raising and lowering said elevator means, whereby said elevator means is lowered when said carrier moves from said second position towards said first position and is thereafter

raised to lift said cover from said carrier and urge a central portion of said carrier into said opening when said carrier has reached said second position; and

5 said chip receptacle having a weighing sensor for determining a weight of a chip placed thereon.

10 40. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

 g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

15 h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (d);

 i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

20 j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

 k) providing a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game;

25 l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

30 m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and, removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

35 41. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

 g) providing an indication of

initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Push button at each player's position; and

l) operating a Push button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has tied a game to omit the tied game from the consecutive wins accumulation and permit play to continue as though the tied game never occurred.

42. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is poker and further including the steps of:

g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed steps (a) and (b);

h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (h);

i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Loss button at each player's position;

1) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and

5 m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (m) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

10 43. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is craps and further including the steps of:

g) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players at an end of a game; and

15 h) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

i) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

20 j) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (k) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

25 44. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is baccarat and further including the steps of:

g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

30 h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

35 i) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and

m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (l) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

45. The method of claim 11 wherein the game of chance is roulette and further including the steps of:

g) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

h) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (h);

i) operating a roulette wheel;

j) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

k) providing a Loss button at each player's position;

l) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and (b) and has lost a game; and

m) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (m) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

46. A system for use in the play of a plurality of games at different locations, each location having a game playing surface provided with a plurality of player positions, comprising:

an area provided at each player location of a game playing surface for making bets;

computer means at each player location of each game for receiving information inputted by a player;

a main DC power source for providing DC power for each game location through a pair of wires coupled between the main power source and each game location;

means at each table for transferring data through said pair of wires to a temporary data buffer storage means; and

a main computer coupled to said data buffer storage means for periodically transferring data stored in said data buffer means to said computer.

47. The system of claim 46 further comprising a rechargeable battery provided at each game location and coupled to said pair of wires for providing DC power to its associated game location in the event of failure of the main the DC power source, said rechargeable battery being constantly charged by said main DC power source when said main DC power source is operating.

48. The system of claim 47 wherein capacitor means are provided between said means for transferring data to said data buffer storage means and said data buffer storage means and being arranged in said the pair of wires for isolating D.C. from the data path.

49. A method of incorporating one of a consecutive win (or loss) side bet into a game of chance utilizing betting chips of different denominations, a weight of each different chip denomination being different from a weight of every

other chip denomination, said method comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering at least one chip to participate in the game of chance;

b) said player making the wager of step (a) further wagering at least one chip or said side bet;

c) determining the weight of the chip wagered at step (b);

d) converting the weight determined at step (d) to a monetary value;

e) presenting a payoff amount according to a number of consecutive wins (or losses) achieved by the player making the bet and based on pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to the number of consecutive wins (or losses); and

f) paying the player when the player has achieved a number of consecutive wins (or losses) regardless of whether the player has selected a specific number of consecutive wins at a predetermined payoff amount or is attempting to win without pre-selecting a given number of wins for a payoff determined by the number of consecutive wins rather than having any relationship to a predetermined number of wins selected by the player; and

g) associating a marker with the side bet made by the player each time the player making the side bet at step (b) achieves another consecutive win (or loss) to identify the current number of wins (or losses).

50. The method of claim 49 further comprising: (g) placing a marker upon the side bet chip each time a player making the side bet at step (b) achieves another consecutive win (or loss).

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